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County of Fresno Solid Waste Quarterly

A County-Wide Approach to Waste Management

Trash to Treasure

You-ve heard the saying, None person-s trash is another person-s treasure. This certainly was the case recently when Resources staff got a call from Duncan Ceramics in Fresno. They wanted to know where they could dispose of 2 pallets of non-recyclable plastic bottles. The approximate 5,000 bottles had been in storage for several years, and staff at Duncan were very anxious to discard them. Resources staff contacted several sources, and was lucky enough to find a taker. The Discovery Center in Fresno decided that they could use all of them.

This was a win-win situation for everyone involved: Duncan disposed of the bottles (at no cost); the Discovery Center acquired a useful item (at no cost); and the bottles were diverted from local landfills.

If no one could have been found locally to take the plastic bottles, another option for Duncan would have been to participate in CalMax, the State=s Materials Exchange Program. This program advertises surplus materials, in a catalog or online, which are available to businesses, local government or individuals at little or no cost. Individuals or organizations looking for surplus materials can also participate in the program. For additional disposal or CalMax information, contact Leslie Kline at 262-4259.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

The next Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event is scheduled for October 17, 1998, in the cities of Fresno,



Reedley, and Mendota.

Approximately 900
reservations will be available for household participants who live in Fresno County.

Participation is free of charge.
On Friday, October 16, small business owners may dispose of hazardous waste by

participating in the Small Quantity Generator (SQG) Program at the Fresno site only. Unlike the household event, a fee is required for the SQG program. For information about HHW Collection Events, contact Marion Miller at 262-4259.

Reused and Recycled Art Contest

High school and junior college art students throughout the city and county of Fresno will be invited to participate in a reused and recycled art contest, being held in conjunction with the Fresno Metropolitan Museum=s 1998, AChristmas at the Met@exhibit in December. The city and county of Fresno solid waste programs are co-sponsoring a holiday tree for the exhibit.

Students will be asked to design and create a decoration/ornament for the tree made from reused and recycled materials. Creations are to be based on the children-s book, AEvery Little Angel-s Handbook. The Museum-s theme for the exhibit is, AA Winter-s Tale, and tree sponsors were asked to select a holiday tale or story as the framework for the tree. AChristmas at the Mete will run from December 6 through December 31, 1998. The city/county-sponsored tree will be exhibited in the youth gallery, along with a display of educational materials related to waste prevention, recycling, holiday waste reduction, and used oil recycling. The winners of the design contest will be recognized by the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and Fresno City Council in early December.

For details about the art contest, contact Susan Schneider at 262-4259

Community Outreach

Staff participated in the Fresno Home Remodeling and Decorating Show, July 31-August 2, 1998, at the Fresno Fairgrounds. County staff, sharing a booth with the city of Fresno Recycling Program staff, were able to answer participants= questions and provide information about solid waste programs. Also taking part in the event were staff from the Fresno County Health Services Agency, who disseminated information about their lead paint management and pool safety programs. Participants at the show totaled 12,800.

The Fresno County Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours event was held on August 20, 1998, at the Centre Plaza Holiday Inn. This event focused on the business community. Information regarding the Recycling Market Development Zone, waste prevention, and the SQG household hazardous waste collection events was emphasized.

Business Outreach

Business Waste Assessment Program--County staff will begin conducting free business waste assessments of County-wide businesses this fall. A business waste assessment looks at the way materials flow through a company and identifies solid waste reduction programs that may save the business money and reduce the amount of materials that are deposited in landfills. A business waste assessment can be as simple as a quick walk-through of the business, or as complex as an analysis of the solid waste that is generated by the business. The outcome of County staff conducting the business waste assessment is the preparation of a report which will assist the business manager in identifying potential solid waste reduction programs. There is no charge for the business waste assessment program, and it is non-binding and non-regulatory in nature.

If you would like additional information on the business waste assessment program, please call Richard S. Gilbert at 262-4259. Program referrals are welcome.

Recycling Market Development Zone

As reported in the Winter 1998 edition of this newsletter, Kroeker, Inc. was the first business in Fresno County to be awarded a loan through the Recycling Market Development Zone (RMDZ) program. The company specializes in construction and demolition-related services. As an example of this company=s commitment to the environment, Kroeker recently completed a demolition project with Fresno Calcot Compress, where a total of 131,790 tons of materials were recycled. The recycled debris amounted to 80 days of waste that did not go to the American Avenue Regional Landfill and a cost avoidance of \$3,795,552 in tipping fees for Kroeker!

For information about Fresno County=s RMDZ program, contact Leslie Kline at 262-4259.

Used Oil Recycling Program

During the period July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998, approximately 70,600 gallons of used motor oil were collected from the public through the three types of collection alternatives (certified collection centers, temporary collection events, and residential curbside collection). The majority of the used oil collected (approximately 58,990 gallons) came from the 35 certified collection centers within Fresno County. Approximately 9,930 gallons were collected through the curbside collection programs in the cities of Clovis and Sanger, while 1,680 gallons of used oil were collected during the two household hazardous waste collection events held during the year.

Used Oil Filter Collection -- The acceptance of used oil filters by 22 of the certified centers began in late June. Advertising and promotional efforts will be conducted to increase the public=s awareness of this new feature of the County=s used oil recycling program.

Public Education Campaign -- Based on the success of the TV and radio advertising campaign conducted during May and June, a second series of ads are planned for the fall. The goal of this ongoing public education program is to promote awareness of used oil recycling and encourage people who change their own motor oil to recycle it. The County also participated in various public information events which took place during the summer. Included were the Sizzling Saturday Car Show and one of the Concerts in the Park. Information on used motor oil

recycling was distributed at these events. For information about the used oil recycling program, contact Don Chapin at 262-4259

Recycle Ben Says . . .

Its hard to believe, but the holiday season is just around the corner. During this time, California households typically generate between three and ten extra bags of garbage. Here are a few tips to reduce waste and have an environmentally friendly holiday season:



- †Purchase gifts with recycled content.
- †Buy gifts that will result in waste prevention in 1999, such as a fountain pen, cloth shopping bag, or quality razor.
- †Be an innovative wrapper, using cloth napkins, scarves, pillow cases, tins, or wooden boxes.
- † Make a pledge to reduce waste in 1999.

For more waste prevention ideas for the holidays, contact Susan Schneider at 262-4259.

UMark Your Calendars

September 19, 1998 3rd Annual Children=s Festival, Sal Mosqueda Community Center, 4670 E. Butler, Fresno. 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Family activities, children=s games, etc. Sponsored by the Fresno City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department. Free. Call 498-1117 for more information.

November 21, 1998 All That Rot! (Composting, Mulching & More.) Jackie Morgan. Garden of the Sun, 1944 N. Winery, Fresno. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. \$12.50. Call 456-7285 for details.

December 2, 1998 Holiday Wreaths from Garden Pruning. Pam Elam & Judy Swenson. Garden of the Sun, 1944 N. Winery, Fresno. 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. \$12.50. Call 456-7285 to register.

The ASolid Waste Quarterly® is produced by the County of Fresno Public Works & Development Services Department, Resources Division, to provide information about issues related to AB 939, the Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989.